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23 July 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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NOTE

Communist China: The Peking regime's announced intent to reform higher education in China seems to have produced a strong negative reaction among university students.

25X1 Cambodian Premier Sihanouk's son, who was studying at Peking University until mid-June, is quoted as saying that the announcement last month of plans for a "thorough reform" was followed by violent riots and mass arrests of students at universities in the capital. The Cambodian said that life at the university had become so unbearable that he would never return. He thought that a similar situation prevailed at universities in other cities.]

{ This version of student reaction has not been confirmed, but there have been other indications of disorders at schools in the past weeks in the wake of the regime's cultural purification drive.]

25X1 student demonstrations were a daily occurrence, and that armed soldiers were patrolling the streets of the capital.] although student demonstrations had stopped, anti-Mao shouts were still being heard at night coming from the campus at Peking University.]

25X1 It is not yet clear how far or how fast the regime will actually push the radical changes in entrance requirements, curricula, and operating methods that have been discussed in the Chinese press. The only concrete steps in this direction thus far have been a six-month postponement of the enrollment of the 1966 freshman class at the universities and the retention of students at the schools for indoctrination this summer instead of giving them the usual working vacation.

Belgium-Congo: [Brussels is seeking clarification of Mobutu's intentions.]

[Brussels sent a stiff diplomatic note to Kinshasa on 21 July stating that "conversations at the highest level" not later than September seem "indispensable" if the Congo wants Belgium's "cooperation." At stake is the Belgian military and technical aid which most observers believe essential to prevent anarchy in much of the Congo.]

[Brussels is seeking to eliminate harassment of a variety of Belgian business establishments in the Congo. Mobutu apparently made concessions to Belgian and foreign oil companies on 21 July but only under threat of a cutoff of oil supplies.]

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NATO: [Differences relating to nuclear-defense sharing and planning matters have emerged in recent discussions among NATO members.]

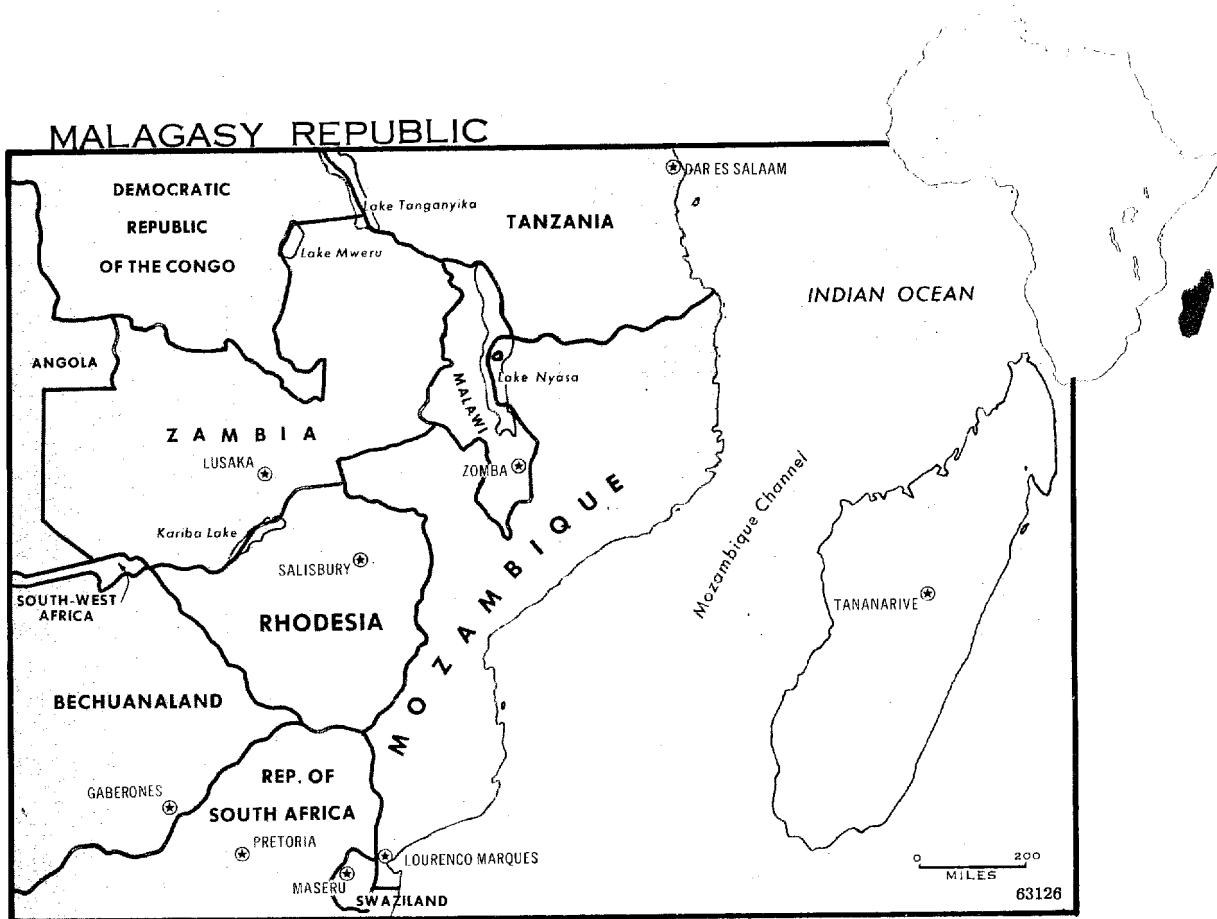
[At the North Atlantic Council's discussion this week of a British report on the Eighteen Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva, the Dutch and Belgians lined up with the British in urging that the so-called European option clause in the Western draft nonproliferation treaty be reconsidered. The Dutch and Belgians supported the British contention that it is essential for the Western Allies "to move" if anything is to be accomplished at Geneva and that at present the European option clause, which leaves the door open for some kind of European nuclear force, is the focal point of disagreement with the Soviets.]

[A leading German CDU politician, however, has expressed his opinion to US officials in Bonn that any proposed nonproliferation treaty which is more restrictive than the present draft and would totally eliminate the European option would be rejected by a large majority of the Bundestag.]

[Differences of view have also developed over US plans to press for a firm agreement on a permanent nuclear-defense affairs committee with a subordinate nuclear planning group. Although the Germans favor eventual creation of a permanent committee, they do not want to risk antagonizing the French at this time. The Germans probably also want to put off institutionalizing any arrangement which might diminish their chances of obtaining a "hardware solution" to the nuclear sharing problem.]

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NOTES

25X1 *Congo (Brazzaville): [President Massamba-Debat is apparently taking another step to curb his army, which mutinied late last month.]

[] the small contingent of French military advisers has been asked to leave Brazzaville within a few days. The 20 or so Soviets working with the army may also be expelled. Massamba-Debat is now relying chiefly on his paramilitary civil defense force, which is being trained by Cuban and Chinese Communist military advisers.]

25X1 Malagasy Republic: The reported illness of President Tsiranana may cause a period of political uncertainty in the Malagasy Republic. He is said to have suffered a stroke which may incapacitate him for as long as six months. His constitutional successor, Vice President Tsiebo, is a political nonentity, and Interior Minister Andre Resampa is expected to assume interim power. Resampa may act more authoritatively than Tsiranana and might try to initiate socialist policies and broaden the republic's contacts with Communist nations.

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